

Sept. 10, 1963

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

NSC REFERRAL
NOT REQUIRED

Subject: The C.I.A. and the foreign policy of the United States

Dear Mr. President:

Increasingly the newspapers report the active participation of the CIA in foreign countries; training and supporting shock troops in Vietnam, preparing raiders against Cuba. I wonder if this activity is the intent of the charter under which the organization was created or even if it is in the best interest of our government.

Of course, being a secret organization, I obtain only fragmentary views of these activities, but those that come to light are disturbing. No doubt, you recall the fiasco of the Cuban invasion. We now hear that the CIA supports new active forces to harass Cuba. The news about President Diem's shocktroops and their support by the CIA cannot have escaped you.

I wonder whether the picture created in the world by these activities is to your liking and whether it reflects the real intentions of the United States Government. It seems as if it justifies many of the traits ascribed to us by the Communists such as the support of undemocratic forces and the suppression of peoples' interests.

Are the short-term gains or the few pacified reactionary votes in Congress worth this damage to the long-term policy of the United States? Do we want to justify the Communists in their view of us and give them the tacit right to emulate us and to put might before right?

I urge you, Mr. President, to return the CIA to its rightful position of an information-gathering agency and to inform our people and the world of this decision.

Respectfully yours,



Ernest G. Chilton

cc: Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel
Sen. Clair Engle